

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were pending. All are subject to a restriction requirement. Group I, claims 1-10, 14-15 were provisionally elected. Of these, claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10 were rejected, while claims 4-5, 9 and 14-15 were objected to. By the above amendments, claims 1, 2, 9, 14 and 15 are amended, claims 4, 5, 11-13 and 16-30 are cancelled and claims 31-56 are added. Therefore, claims 1-3, 6-10, 14, 15 and 31-56 are pending. The applicants request further examination and reconsideration in view of the amendments above and remarks set forth below.

Election

The applicants hereby affirm the provisional election of Group I, claims 1-10, 14-15. Claims 11-13 and 16-30, being drawn to non-elected Groups II and III, are cancelled.

Amendments to Specification

The paragraph at page 15, line 29 to page 16, line 8, is amended to correct an informality in which Figure 11 is referred to as Figure 10. In addition, the paragraph at page 16, line 19 to page 17, line 8, is amended to provide the omitted patent application serial number.

Claim Rejections/Objections

Claims 1, 6-7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Albert, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,687,222). Claims 2-3, 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albert, et al. in view of Ward, Julie, et al., Storage Area Network Fabric Design. Claims 4-5, 9, 14 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of original claim 4, which was objected to. Therefore, claim 1 is now allowable. Claim 2 has been amended slightly to comport with the amendment to claim 1. Claims 4 and 5 are cancelled and claim 9 is amended to no longer depend from cancelled claim 5. Claims 2-3 and claims 6-10 are allowable at because they depend from an allowable base claim 1.

Claims 14 and 15 were objected to. Claims 14 and 15 were originally dependent from claim 10; however, it can be readily ascertained from the claim structure that claims 14 and 15 were intended to depend from non-elected claim 11. Therefore, the applicants have amended each of claims 14 and 15 to be in independent form and to include the limitations of original claim 11. Because claims 14 and 15 each recite limitations not suggested or disclosed by the cited art, claims 14 and 15 are allowable.

New Claims:

New claim 31 is an independent claim having limitations of original claim 5, which was objected to. Therefore, new claim 31 is allowable. New claims 32-38 add limitations similar to those of original claims 2, 3 and 6-10. New claims 32-38 are allowable at least because are dependent from new claim 31.

New claims 39-45 are dependent from an allowable base claim 14 and add limitations similar to those of original claims 12, 13 and 16-20. New claims 39-45 are allowable at least because are dependent from claim 14.

New claims 46-52 are dependent from an allowable base claim 15 and add limitations similar to those of original claims 12, 13 and 16-20. New claims 46-52 are allowable at least because are dependent from claim 15.

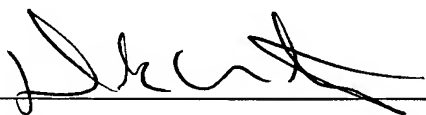
New claims 53, 54, 55 and 56 are system claims having limitations similar to those of allowable claims 1, 14, 15 and 31, respectively.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, the applicants submit that all of the pending claims are now allowable. Allowance at an early date would be greatly appreciated. Should any outstanding issues remain, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (408) 293-9000 so that any such issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully Submitted,

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